

Ian Kuksov

Chief of Staff

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[Linkedin](#)
[lankuksov.info](#) (my portfolio)

Chief of Staff and Strategic Operator with 4+ years of experience leading operations and being a force multiplier for leadership in high-growth startups through strategy and decision support, process design and AI implementations.

Work experience

Space Inch | Chief of Staff

Nashville, TN | 09.2024 - 03.2026

- Promoted to strategic and operational partner to the CEO 4 months after being hired as a student researcher.
- Led business development spanning events, account management, think-tank management, lead generation and pipeline structure. Then built a custom management system for all initiatives, giving leadership operational visibility.
- Authored frameworks across HR, BizDev, Product and AI-Engineering. Wrote workbooks and SOPs.
- Pioneered AI-coding agents, building 4 AI product prototypes (0 to 1) to test business opportunities.

Kuhne & Skworzow | Manager & Director's Assistant

Pula, Croatia | 02.2022 - 08.2024

- Full ownership of day-to-day business operations for a foreign executive.
- Developed foundational business structure, turning ambiguous objectives into structured execution and results.
- Owned the full recruitment pipeline from job postings to interviews and permit processing.
- Built and managed the company's entire web presence from scratch: website, advertising and sales listings.
- Created the operational infrastructure of the digital workspace, documents, templates and simple management systems.

Hard skills

Trilingual (Croatian, Russian, English) | Automations | AI Product Development | Process Design | **Playbooks and SOP Design** | Custom Tools | **AI fluency** | Ollama | Cursor | Claude Code | Codex | Obsidian | MCP | **Agentic Architecture** | Trello | Notion | Google Workspace | Microsoft Office | Jira | Confluence | GitHub | Sales Navigator | Fusion 360 | Plasticity | Arduino | 3D printing and Design | 0 to 1 Prototyping | GTM | Sourcing | Recruiting | Research | **Process Optimization**

Soft skills

Executive Communication | Systems Thinking | Rapid Learning | Critical Thinking | Builder Mentality | Adaptability | Prioritization | Negotiation | AI Pragmatism | Project Management | Time Management | Creative Problem Solving

Education

Faculty of Economics and Tourism "Dr. Mijo Mirkovic"

Bachelor's Degree in Business, Management, and Marketing.
Paused before graduation due to personal circumstances

Pula, Croatia | Paused

Secondary School of Economics

High School Diploma, Economics

Pula, Croatia | 2020

Personal Projects

- **Local AI News Digest Agent:** Created an automated agent that delivers Morning Brew-style news digest to my inbox daily ([Link to case study](#))
- **Digital Desktop Pet:** Built this ESP-based desktop pet while learning touch typing, to track my WPM progress. Featured design on the platform, successful crowdfunding ([Link to project](#))
- **Sputnik Split Keyboard:** To make it easier for beginners to get into split keyboards, created an open source keyboard project with detailed wiring instructions, 3D printing files, precompiled firmware and a Bill of Materials. ([Github](#))

Interests

I'm a Maker and enjoy woodworking, blacksmithing, sewing, DIY electronics and 3D printing. I share my designs on MakerWorld under [Vostok Labs](#). Big fan of Sci-Fi, Cyberpunk and LitRPG books. Own a small collection of retro handheld emulators, build ergonomic split keyboards from scratch and code some personal projects with local LLMs.